

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 DODE-00 L-03 MED-03 AID-20 SCI-06

HEW-08 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /080 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/LA/PLC-PM:LTC S.M.QUIGG:ME

APPROVED BY ARA/LA/PLC-PM:LTC S.M.QUIGG

DOD/OSD/ISA:CAPT.GOODEN (SUBST)

ARA/NC:JMAISTO (DRAFT)

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R 241717Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

UNCLAS STATE 210128

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, MILI, CO

SUBJECT: DERMATOLOGICAL STUDY UTILIZING SOLDIERS FROM
COLOMBIAN ARMY

1. REQUEST YOUR CONCURRENCE AND FINAL APPROVAL OF COLOMB-
IAN COUNTERPARTS FOR U.S. ARMY MEDICAL TEAM TO CONDUCT EPI-
DEMIOLGICAL STUDY COMMENCING FIRST WEEK OF OCT 74 FOR AP-
PROXIMATELY SIX WEEKS UTILIZING MEMBERS OF THE COLOMBIAN
ARMY. U.S. TEAM COMPOSED OF:

COLONEL ALFRED M. ALLEN, M.D., M.P.H. TEAM CHIEF. EPIDEMI-
OLOGIST, DERMATOLOGY RESEARCH UNIT, LETTERMAN ARMY
INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH, SAN FRANCISCO.

DAVID TAPLIN. TEAM COORDINATOR. DEPARTMENT OF DERMATOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI.

CAPTAIN DAN KING, PH.D. MYCOLOGY, CUTANEOUS MICROBIOLOGY,
IMMUNOLOGY. DERMATOLOGY RESEARCH UNIT, LETTERMAN ARMY
INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH.

JUDIE RITCHIE, RESEARCH ASSISTANT. BACTERIOLOGY, MICROBIAL
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TAXONOMY. FLUENT IN SPANISH. DERMATOLOGY RESEARCH UNIT,

LETTERMAN ARMY INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH.

PATRICIA M. MERTZ. RESEARCH ASSOCIATE. MYCOLOGY, BACTERIOLOGY, HOSPITAL INFECTIONS, FIELD DIAGNOSTICS, DEPARTMENT OF DERMATOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY ARE (1) DETERMINE THE PREVALENCE, SEVERITY, AND SPECIFIC MICROBIAL CAUSE OF SKIN INFECTIONS AMONG SOLDIERS IN DIVERSE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF COLOMBIA; (2) RELATE THE PREVALENCE AND SEVERITY OF SPECIFIC INFECTIONS TO CLIMATE AND TO OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURES TO ENVIRONMENTAL INSULTS (TERRAIN, VEGETATION, AND INSECT LIFE); (3) DETERMINE IF LENGTH OF SERVICE AND REGION OF ORIGIN CORRELATE WITH FREQUENCY OR SEVERITY OF INFECTION; AND (4) SHARE THE FINDINGS AND TECHNICAL METHODOLOGY WITH THE COLOMBIAN HOSTS. COLOMBIA CHOSEN FOR CONDUCT OF STUDY BECAUSE IT OFFERS WIDE VARIETY AND HIGH PREVALENCE (CLOSE TO 100 PERCENT OF THE SOLDIERS ARE INFECTED) OF SKIN DISEASES OF FEET AND PROVIDES ALL MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL EXTREMES THAT U.S. FORCES COULD EXPECT TO ENCOUNTER IF DEPLOYED TO ANY TROPICAL OR SUBTROPICAL AREA.

3. INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS OF PROPOSED STUDY WERE HELD IN AUGUST 1974 BETWEEN COLOMBIAN ARMY HOSPITAL COMMANDER; COLOMBIAN HOSPITAL COMMITTEE ON ACADEMICS; GENERAL ALVARIO HERRERA-CALDERON; COMMANDING GENERAL OF COLOMBIAN ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE; AND MR. DAVID TAPLIN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, CONTRACTOR TO U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND. ALSO, PROPOSED STUDY WAS INFORMALLY DISCUSSED WITH DEFENSE ATTACHE, COL WILLIAM H. VAIL. NO OBJECTIONS WERE RAISED AT THE TIME OF MR. TAPLIN'S VISIT BY PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OR COL VAIL. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, MEDICAL RESEARCH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE210128
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PM:LTC S.M.QUIGG:ME
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740268-1113
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740918/aaaaapdl.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DERMATOLOGICAL STUDY UTILIZING SOLDIERS FROM COLOMBIAN ARMY
TAGS: TBIO, MILI, CO, US
To: BOGOTA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005